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EARLY WRITINGS

OF

ROBERT PERCY SMITH,

WITH

A FEW VERSES IN LATER YEARS.

EDITED BY HIS SURVIVING SON

R. V. S.

M. DCCC. L.

AN ARTICLE IN THE MORNING CHRONICLE

BY LORD MORPETH.

MARCH, 1845.

IT has very recently fallen to our lot to attempt some commemoration of the life, character, and genius of the late Rev. Sydney Smith. We little apprehended at the time that we should so soon afterwards be called upon to record the death of his brother, elder by one year, Robert Smith, Esq. which took place on the day fortnight after the other. These two most remarkable men had always entertained a strong degree of reciprocal attachment and admiration for each other; but the life of the elder had, especially of late years, been so comparatively withdrawn from the more prominent scenes of business and society, that we have little doubt that we shall surprise the larger proportion of our readers by af-

firming that, while the younger justly attracted an ampler share of the public notice by the more active part he bore in questions and measures affecting the public welfare, and while in a species of inspiration which he imparted to mirth and wit, though by no means his most valuable characteristic, he among the men of his own, and perhaps of any time, may with truth be pronounced inimitable; at the same time, we believe that the most discerning of the contemporaries who were happy enough to enjoy the friendship of both—we are sure that the lamented Sydney himself—would in extent of acquirement, in original force of thought, in mastery of mind, have given the palm to Robert, or to call him by the name he inherited from the happy familiarity of early days, Bobus Smith.

We cannot pretend to give a full or accurate account of his life. He was born in 1770. At Eton he was the intimate associate of Canning, Frere, and Lord Holland, and a contributor to the *Microcosm*. At Cambridge he materially added to the reputation for scholarship and classical composition which he had established at school; and if the most fastidious critic of our day would dili-

gently peruse the three Triposes which he composed in Lucretian rhythm, on the three systems of Plato, Descartes, and Newton, we believe that we should not run the least risk of incurring the charge of exaggeration, in declaring our belief that these compositions in Latin verse have not been excelled since Latin was a living language. Be this said with the peace of Milton and Cowley—with the peace of his fellow Etonians, Gray and Lord Wellesley.

We are not aware that we can refer to any subsequent composition by Mr. Smith which could be put on a level with these youthful effusions. We should, indeed, imagine that no person with his powers of intellect had ever published so little. Nor were his achievements in active public life, from the same fastidious aversion to display, though by no means wanting in usefulness, at all commensurate with the ideas conceived of him by every one that approached him. He was nine years in Bengal as Advocate-General, and one short extract from Sir James Mackintosh's Diary may show the value entertained for him there:—"I hear frequently of Bobus. His fame among the natives is greater than that of any pundit since

the days of Menu:" and again, "I hear from Bobus; always merry and always kind. Long live Bobus!"

We believe his acquaintance were disposed to form brilliant auguries of what he was likely to effect as a speaker in Parliament. His first essay in 1812, is supposed not to have come up at least to the mark of his own fastidious judgment, and he seldom afterwards addressed the house at any length, or upon subjects which excited the contests and passions of parties. He rendered, however, really eminent services as a most diligent and pains-taking member of committees, which might have put many an idle mediocrity to the blush. He finally retired from Parliament in 1826. He spent the remainder of his life in comparative retirement, in the serene enjoyment of the various literature he loved, and the cheerful intercourse of the restricted society that delighted him. Nothing can be imagined more rich and racy in its variety of material, and in its force of reflection, than his conversation. "Pourquoi ne parlez-vous comme-ça dans la Chambre des Communes?" said Madame de Stael to him one day, after listening for some time to its eloquent flow; though there was in it nothing of the harangue, in

its manly ease and simplicity it partook of his character; there was much in him of the sturdy Saxon combined with the refined and thoroughly finished scholar. No one was ever so clear of all frippery, and the only thing for which he probably felt no toleration was a prig. Of his conversation Mr. Canning said " Bobus's language is the essence of English."

In his inner domestic life he was full of gentle and attaching qualities. He married Caroline Vernon, daughter of Richard Vernon, Esq. and Evelyn, Countess of Upper Ossory. He lost a son and a daughter in their prime of youth, each of most rare promise. His eldest son, and only surviving child, is the Right Hon. R. Vernon Smith, M. P. for Northampton.

We pause for an instant longer over the graves of the two brothers; the void they have left among the men of their time will never be supplied, and we feel that the literal truth almost conveys an idea of homeliness to the exquisite beauty of the words in Holy Writ—" They were pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided."

The following beautiful Latin inscription is from the pen of Dr. Parr, with a presentation copy of a book :—

Roberto Smith, A. M.,
Coll. Regali in Academia Cantabrigiensi
Quondam Socio
Juris consulto de plurimis
tum civibus Britannicis
tum Asiæ incolis B. M.
Viro
Ob multam et exquisitam ejus doctrinam
Ob insitam vim ingenii
Ob sententias in versibus Latine
Scriptis uberes et argutas
Sine cincinnis, fucoque puerili
Ob genus orationis in agendis causis
Non captiosum et veteratorium
Sed forte virile vehemens
Et qua res postulaverit
Magnificum etiam atque splendidum
Ob gravitatem sermonis familiaris
Lepore et facetiis
Jucundissime conditam
Ob fidem humanitatemque
In vita instituenda
Et in maximis negotiis procurandis
Altitudinem animi Singularem
Suis carissimo
Hunc librum D. D. Samuel Parr.

CARMINA.

DOS EST MAGNA PARENTUM VIRTUS.

ETONÆ A. D. 1787.

O QUÆ solicitos metus amoris
Sopitos facili quiete mulces,
Cœli cura Fides, et intimarum
Felix copula mentium (evaganti
Per quam vincla libidini reperta,
Per quam turpis adulter exulavit,
Nec stupris domus inquinatur ullis)
Esto sacra! nec inquieta bilis,
Semper fellea, semper æstuosa,
Puræ gaudia limet unitatis!
Nec lingua petat insolente livor,
Nec risu petulante criminetur,
Quos ipse Omnipotens sacravit ignes.
Per te nascimur, et sumus; paterna

Per te fœdera nata caritatis;
Per te quicquid amabile, æstuantem
Quicquid decipere efficax dolorem,
Uxoris sinus, aut habet tenellæ
Prolis eloquium æmulique risus.
O qui perpetuo tenore currens
Fons dulcedine profluis novata,
Felix, te pia nympha quæ sub imo
Sensit pectore leniter scatentem.
Illi faustior advolat Cupido,
Accensamque sereniore flamma
Alas purpureas movens superne
Aura lampada ventilat secunda:
Regnans, luxuriansque, non in empto
Risu pellicis, osculoque cæco;
Sed casto, sed amante, mutuaque
Imbuto fide, amore, caritate.
Quali crediderim frui, receptam
In cœli loca patriasque sedes,
Mentem lætitia, simul solutis
Pigri corporis evolat catenis.

NEC TAM AVERSUS EQUOS TYRIA SOL JUNGIT AB URBE.

ETONÆ A.D. 1787.

VOS agite, o arcana sophi quoscunque secutos
Naturæ juvat integros accedere fontes,
Dicite, queis causis, quo fato, ab origine rerum
Diverso diversa aptantur pectora cœlo.
Hic æquæ leges, et amabilis umbra Lycæi,
Otiaque ingenuas elimant molliter artes;
Illic incumbens operi labor improbus urget
Propositum, vetitoque audax industria nisu
Imperat et ventis, luctantiaque æquora vincit:
Cædibus hic pugnisque furit Mavortia proles;
Illic lenta quies, atque enervata voluptas
Languescit, mollique Venus suspirat in aura.
Sæpe per attonitas vasto procul agmine gentes
Ingruit, et late sparsit Scytha fulmina belli;
Quaque gravis sese tempestas intulit, una
Reges, fana, Deos, rapuit: sæpe horridus armis
Contristata gelu et borealibus aspera ventis
Litora deseruit Bisalta, acerque Gelonus,

Cærulaque insuetis intorquens lumina regnis
Admisso prorupit equo; quo turbine victi
Luxuriæ cultas artes florentiaque arva
Submittunt nimia enerves æstate coloni.
Effera gens rapto fruitur, sensimque feroces
Emollire animos, blandamque inducere pacem,
Splendidiorque dies, et raris nubibus æther.
Quippe novos avidi fructus, nova poma, legebant;
Siccabantque novo spumantia nectare pocla.
   Cur pergit sævo dominorum horrescere nutu
Infelix Asia? Europæ dum exosa tyrannos,
Qua possit, testatur adhuc se libera virtus;
Et fractas leges usque indignata, nepotes
(Quos tremuere olim refugo cum principe Persæ)
Degeneres procul, et quondam sua respicit arva?
Anne magis tepidi soles, et clarior æther,
Exuperare valent aurai simplicis ignem,
Pectoris unde oritur virtus, atque ingenii vis?
Ceu, lucem obscuro quæ late vespere fundunt,
Marcescunt Phœbea effetæ lampade tedæ.
Anne opus est nobis boreali sidere, nervi

Unde habiles fiant bello, atque audacia corda?
Aut, ubi naturæ facies pulcherrima ridet,
Polluta tellure recedit languida virtus?
O indigna viro sententia! queis eget auris,
Quo zonarum animus patitur se limite claudi?
Conscius ætherii generis viget ille, solutus
Per Libyæ deserta, per aspera litora Thules;
Imperat; excutiturque prius sopita facultas,
Temperiemque vicesque novas, nova munia, sumit;
Invertit leges: terrena hæc forma fatetur
Imperium, atque humili purgata cupidine sensus
Emicat, atque hominem cognatis inserit astris.
Non quia non primo mortalis fabrica partu
Hauriat ipsa parentalis quasi semina terræ:
Qualis enim poscit diversa colentibus arva
Terra labore coli vario; dumque omnia florent,
Quæque tamen proprio signantur munere: tali
Indicio referunt affectus, corpora, mores,
Natalisque soli venam patriamque fatentur.
  Ferrea gens lustrat montes, aversaque campi
Mitibus ingeniis: nam (qua robusta necesse est

Vis insit membris, quæ mitiget aspera sensim
Sudore arva gravi, atque obliquo frangat aratro;
Aut torrentis aquæ superimpendentia raptim
Flumina divertat, vel rustica tela capessens
Hic silices ruat, hic glebis et cespite velet)
Quid mirum! juga si quæ cultor iniqua labore
Perdomuit, virtute ferox defendit et armis.
Dumque suas arces, et saxea mœnia cernit,
(Quali pauperies, quali munimine guadet
Vivida libertas) camporum insultet inerti
Luxuriæ. Quid mirum? infra torrentia sole
Cœlorum spatia, (æstivo qua Nilus ab alveo
Errat, et Ægypto rorantibus incubat alis
Latior exundans, diffusaque semina vitæ
Volvit agens secum, et steriles fecundat arenas)
Si remo levis et patrio niger incola velo
(Sic etiam fluvii poscit natura solique)
Antevolat zephyros, verritque liquentia vitra;
Aut habili cymba vicinam illabitur urbem,
Quæ placidos inter merso fundamine fluctus
Attollit caput, et solenni incingitur unda.

. . . . RECEPTO
CÆSARE FELIX.

ETONÆ A. D. 1788.

QUALEM sereni sæpe Diespiter
Vertit procella veris imaginem,
Turbatque ridentis Favoni
Mollitiem redeunte nimbo;
Talem minatus terruit aurea
Superbientem pace Britanniam,
Et rebus elatam secundis
Retulit in meliora gentem:
Felicitatem scilicet integram,
Semperque puram terrigenis diem
Natura, fortunæque ludus
Invidet, implicuitque fila
Nigro vicissim stamine candida:
Nec magna magno dona carent metu;
Nec gloria hærentem coronæ
Summoveat pietasque mortem.

Quondam receptus testis ab impetu
Amentis iræ, quem patriæ patrem
Britannia agnoscit, fideli
Suspiciens pietate regem.

Sic usque, princeps, sic pietas tua
Virtusque custodem inveniat Deum:
Hinc nota Divini voluntas
Numinis, hinc pia vota gentis.

Te, cùm jaceres invalidus modo,
Morbusque nostros retulerit metus,
Cœlum fatigavit reposcens
Anglia; teque iterum recepto

Laudis rependit munera debitæ.
Sed tu saluti parce memor tuæ,
Votisque concessus Britannis,
Et populo valeas precanti!

Perfunctus altis muneribus diu,
Princeps, superstes tu pater audias,
Morumque florentem tuorum
Auspiciis tueare gentem.

EGERE VETES, ET SCRIBERE COGAS.

Etonæ A. D. 1788.

HALAT in apricis hortis rosa dulcior, almus
Quam Titan, placidi quam Jovis aura fovet;
Hac comptas ornante comas, pulcherrima virgo
Intererit festis pulchrior inde choris;
Hæc etiam sacra suaves miscebit odores
Cum myrto, Paphiæ rite dicata Deæ:
Non secus illustri florentior auspice surgit
Callida principibus Musa placere viris.
Hospitio gaudens Hieronis, Pindarus audax
Grandiloquæ aptavit nomina magna lyræ;
Carmineque Eleis palmis potiore, superbis
Cum dominis claros nobilitavit equos.
Dicitur in Pharia lusisse Theocritus aula
Doride, Naïades quæ docuere, lyra;
Pocula moverunt lætam Mareotica Musam,
Moverunt risus, o Ptolemææ, tui.

Ennius ipse pater dulces Aganippidis undas
In Latios amnes et sua rura tulit;
Grandius at sonuit, simul ac patronus, et hospes
Mandavit poto bella canenda seni.
Scipiadæ focus, et communis cœna Terenti
Finxit in urbanos verba diserta sales.
Cum Maro cantaret formosam Amaryllida, vires
Ingenio Tuscus suppeditavit eques;
Mox etiam insonuit plectro majore, sub altis
Cæsaris auspiciis arma virumque canens.
Flaccus et instabilem Cynaræ mœrebat amorem
Cum fluerent inter mollia vina dies.
Sed neque sola suis arrisit Græcia Musis,
Nec sola ingeniis hospita Roma suis:
Hic etiam ingenuæ sub nutu Cæsaris artes,
Hic locus Aoniis hospitiumque choris;
Hic humilem invitant studia ad sublimia Musam
Præmia regali nobilitata manu;
Invitentque diu: tantum o sit digna, nec unquam,
Optime Rex, laudi desit Etona tuæ.

ORE TRAHIT QUODCUNQUE POTEST.

Etonæ a. d. 1788.

EST, ubi præruptæ findunt se in cornua silvæ,
Aridaque æstivis circum loca solibus ardent,
Urbs antiqua, potens, quam Dis et moribus æquis
Formicæ coluere diu; non mœnia tectos
Circumdant fines, neque propugnacula pontis
Desuper impendent; fracta testudine (mirum)
Fictilia incrustant totam laquearia gentem;
Una superficies: hinc inde foramine pauco
Est aditus, parvæque intus longa atria plebis
Apparent; teritur diducto semita tractu
Per medium: simul incœpto locus unde labori
Suppetat; aura simul sedes pervadat in imas,
Et cava perpetuo lustret penetralia flatu.
In summo æternæ vigiles ante ora fodinæ
Nocte, die, alternis vicibus sua mœnia servant.
Scilicet hic populo spes omnis, et horrea gentis;

Hinc sese solantur, et hinc secura sub alta
Otia agunt terra, glacies ubi mitia poma
Abstulerit, mollesque gelu duraverit agros.
Nec quisquam aut altos furtim terebrare recessus
Impune aggreditur, vetitoque invadere passu
Custoditum iter: infractos non acrior hostes
Insequitur Scytha; si quando vel musca procaces
Ludit agens gyros, plauditque sonantibus alis,
Sive æstiva culex vacuas prope cantat ad auras:
Illam implorantem dentata forcipe custos
Occupat, et morsu elidens levia ossa fatigat.
Hi ludi bellorum, atque hæc præludia martis,
Parva quidem: sin, mane novo cum tota juventus
Effundit sese, et campos petit agmen apertos,
Sub noctem insidias prædator araneus egit,
Tenuiaque obsessæ opposuit sua retia portæ,
Aut nidum effosso posuit scarabæus in antro,
Confidens galea et piceæ thoracis amictu;
Undique deprenso genus irritabile circum
Funditur: hæ tergo insiliunt, hæ cruribus hærent,

Cornibus hæ pendent, duramque proboscida prensant.
Ille giganteo tenuem conamine turbam
Secum aufert fugiens: veteresque a sedibus imis
Dejicit innitens portas, atque aggere rupto
Eruit, et vastas devolvit calce ruinas.
Apparet domus intus, et indigesta dehiscunt
Culmina.
Sicut ubi effractis digito furace placentis,
Crustula (væ! mensis frustra expectata futuris)
Ante diem pascunt oculos mellita profanos;
Nescia non æquo indulget Susanna furori,
Et modo se felemque suum, modo numina clamat.
Tum vero trepidique senes, puerique fugaces,
Et formidantes dira formidine matres
Mirantur miseros supra caput ire maritos.
Qua niger invasor cursu trepidante recedit,
Hæret adhuc, trahiturque sequens, fessumque trahendo
Impedit, et lateri suffigitur improbus hostis.
Ille autem, ut nigram videt increbrescere turbam,
Concidit; insiliunt illi, totumque pererrant,

Armaque scrutantur tenui distantia rima:
Deinde locum nacti dapibus, lacerata reportant
Corpora victores, et festo sanguine gaudent.
At tecta interea confusa squalida mole
Pulveris, et mistis sordent granaria saxis.
Ergo omnis sese assidua respublica cura
Accingunt operi: non illo tempore segnem
Floribus in mediis videas cessare juventam,
Aut terebrare nuces, aut dulcia mella morari.
Una domus laceræ cura est, labor unus in illa:
Hæ lapides, hæ ligna rotant, hæ pulvere rimas
Obducunt; aliæ congesta cibaria purgant
Ad solem, et siccant cœlo frumenta sereno.
Nec requies, donec renovata sede, petita
Fas impune frui per tot dispendia lauro.
Sic ubi, quem vexat damnosa peritia legum,
Justitia exeso victrix nudavit agello;
Ille animi fidens renovat se in prælia, donec
Victorem e laribus lites pepulere secundæ.

‡ EX SIMONIDE.

Etonæ a. d. 1788.

VENTUS quum fremeret, superque cymbam
Horrentis furor immineret undæ,
Non siccis Danae genis puellum
Circumfusa suum; "Miselle," dixit,
"O quæ sustineo! sopore dulci
"Dum tu solveris, insciâque dormis
"Securus requie; neque has per undas
"Illætabile, luce sub maligna,
"Formidas iter, impetumque fluctus
"Supra cæsariem tuam profundam
"Nil curas salientis, ipse molli
"Porrectus tunica, venustus infans;
"Nec venti fremitum. Sed, o miselle,
"Si mecum poteras dolere, saltem
"Junxisses lacrymas meis querelis.
"Dormi, care puer! gravesque fluctus,

" Dormite! o utinam mei dolores
" Dormirent simul! o Pater Deorum,
" Cassum hoc consilium sit, et quod ultra
" (Forte audacius) oro, tu parentis
" Ultorem puerum, supreme, serves."

SI CHARTÆ SILEANT QUOD BENE FECERIS.

Etonæ a. d. 1789.

QUI vivo excudit spirantia marmora vultu,
Aut facili torno rasile fingit ebur;
Qui ponit liquidis animata coloribus ora,
Aut molli tumidos exprimit ære toros;
Vivat, et insignis peritura laude fruatur,
Ingenio artificis dum breve plaudit opus.
Scilicet exesas abolebunt tempora formas;
Marcet Apellea picta tabella manu:
Cuncta ruit tempus, cæcoque potentius ictu
Putria Phidiaco decutit arma Deo:
Ambrosii crines, et nigræ gloria frontis
Solvitur assidua languida facta die.
Non ita, quod vates opus exigit, auspice Phœbo,
Castaliæ latices qui semel hausit aquæ.
Ille (velut Divom interpres, Jove missus ab alto,
Cum liquidum rapido fulmine radit iter)

Lustrabit notus magnum quæcunque per orbem
   Litora purpureis sol tepefecit equis;
Ille dabit fato leges, et morte subacta
   Vivus ab exequiis ibit in astra suis.
Invida securæ temnunt oblivia Musæ,
   Et, sua qui norint sacra, perire vetant.
Vivit Homereis numeris commissus Achilles,
   Cumque suo juvenis vate superstes erit:
Vivit et Æneas, Romanæ gentis origo;
   Mantua, Virgilii laus fuit ista tui:
Perdita floret adhuc divino in carmine Troja,
   Et Latii colles, et Jovis alta domus.
Tu quoque (qui, fausto nutritis omine Musis,
   Otia securo sub lare tuta facis)
Vivis; et æternos vivas, Henrice, per annos,
   Dum nova progenies, queis numereris, erit:
Vidit enim, videatque suos Etona poëtas;
   Deficiat laudi nec pia turba tuæ.
Picta licet facies, et saxea vivet imago,
   Clarior ambobus Musa superstes erit.

CARTESII PRINCIPIA.

CANTABRIGIÆ A. D. 1790.

QUI primus sacros potuisti accedere fontes,
Unde aperire viam veri, atque erumpere sese
E tenebris audet ratio, tua, Magne, reperta
Aggredior, si qua ulla vocatæ gratia Musæ
Dissolvat gelida concretum temperie cor,
Atque hebetem magno naturam accendat amore.
Principio passim spatia indigesta tenebat
Lubrica materies, crudique trementia mundi
Semina; nec vacuum illud erat, sed plena volabant
Corpora. Tum assiduis inter se motibus acta
Liquida ramenta, et teneri cœpere vapores
Diffluere, et vastum sese Labyrinthus in æquor
Explicuit, fecitque viam, qua præcipitantes
Confluerent atomi, et solidus coalesceret orbis.

Major abhinc rerum facies, et sanctior usus
Exoritur; voluitque animatam fœdere fixo
Ire Deus naturam, et justis volvere sese
Imperiis : ipse in medio, certissimus auctor,
Intus agit, pascitque effuso numine mundum.

Idcirco levis iste fluor circum ambit opacos,
Ætheris oceano cingens, atque irrigat orbes;
Vividus, alta tremens, æterno turbine raptus :
Qualem etiam æstivo sub sudo sæpe videre est,
Cum flammæ ardentes radii, tenuesque superne
Lympharum rores, atque auræ intactilis humor
Miscuerunt sese, et cœlo luctantur aperto;
Æstu pura quati loca cernimus, et tremere omnem
Aëra per campum, rapidaque liquescere luce.

Sol autem maris immensi spatia aurea circum
Vorticibus trahit, et rutilo rotat axe planetas.
Illæ indefessæ peragunt per inania cursus
Quæque suos. Una erranti symphonia cœlo
Scilicet, et rerum consentit mobilis ordo.

Arduus ante omnes agitur Cyllenius Hermes;

Credibile est illum tenebris et nocte carentem
Æterno radiare die, tam fervida torret
Temperies, rapidique urget vicinia Solis.
Gratas quippe vices aliis, requiemque calorum
Alternam Natura dedit, jussitque vagari
(Floridus unde foret vigor, et sincera facultas)
Nubila per cœlum, et gelidos erumpere fontes,
Diffuditque cavis liquidum in convallibus æquor.
  Proxima deinde tenet magni spatia ampla sereni
Dia Venus, tibi, Terra, soror, tibi prima diei
Nuncia, cum teneram jaculatur roscida lucem
Mane novo, noctisque hyemalia claustra resolvit.
Æstivis eadem illa comes surgentia ducit
Sidera temporibus—
  Nec tu, Terra, tui media in testudine mundi
Figeris, astrorumque sedes regina, sed una
Rapta volas, usque assidua vortigine tranans
Æthereos apices, liquidique volumina cœli;
Sicut odoratam cum Pinaron, aut Calycadni
Prætervecta sinus, aut ostia divitis Indi

Labitur indulgens Zephyro ratis; omne cubanti
Sternitur æquor aqua; læves illa usque per undas
It tacita, et specie labentia littora linquit.
  Ulteriora autem læva torrentia luce
Martis, et ignito crudescunt concava vultu.
Deinde Jovem circum fulgenti quatuor ardent
Astra satellitio: gelidos Saturnus oberrat
Extremus fines, et tardo lumine lustrat,
Quos ultra innumeri Soles, et candida currunt
Sidera, sive ea sunt magni flammantia mundi
Mœnia, seu vastum diffusa per infinitum
Ultra animorum aciem, et nostræ confinia mentis.
  Ergo umbras sequimur tenues, et inania rerum
Somnia: nec mœstæ flerunt Phaethonta sorores,
Stillantes vitreum foliis lacrymantibus imbrem,
Curribus excussum patriis; nec conscia Latmi
Luna videt nemora; aut stellatæ Atlantides ardent
Virgineis habitatæ animis:—apparet in alto
Pura quies cœlo, liquidisque innantia mundi
Sidera vorticibus, et late lucidus æther.

Felix, qui placidum sophiæ libaverit amnem!
Cui secura suos aperit sapientia fontes!
Pluribus illa quidem; sed enim circumstat acerba
Dirarum facies, prohibetque attingere ripam;
Anxietas, vacuoque ferox Insania risu,
Et quæcunque fatigato comes addita cordi
Hæret inexpletum, atque animo febricitat ægro.
Quid tibi tantopere est, mortalis, multa querentem
Ducere, sollicitamque gravi formidine vitam?
Quid cæcum studio vivendi deterere ævom?
Nequicquam; quoniam brevia atque incerta labascunt
Tempora, et infecta jamjam ad caput adstitit hora
Mors, operumque quies, et respiratio curæ.
Nos autem lucis non intellecta cupido
Alligat, atque animum dulcedine frangit amara.

PLATONIS PRINCIPIA.

Πολλοὶ δέ εἰσι καὶ θαυμαστοὶ τῆς γῆς τόποι.
Plat. Phæd.

CANTABRIGIÆ A. D. 1791.

EHEU! quam gratum est vitaï in limine primo
Ludere luce nova, atque animæ indulgere virenti,
Sæva prius quam cura agitata mente quietem
Exturbaverit, aut tenebras offuderit angor!
Atque utinam his equidem furiis nos carminis ulla
Eriperet medicina: ita turbidus insiliit cor
Irarum chorus, atque agitat sub pectore torquens,
Anxius, irrequietus: et insedit super ingens
Vitaï desiderium—Miser! usque adeone,
Captus amore mali, potes indormire querelis,
Exsolvique dolenter, et ingemere, inque morari?
Ac non ipse tibi quæris, quibus artibu' possis

Castigare fatigatum formidine pectus,
Et quanam ratione queat composta magis mens
Expectare quietem ærumnarum atque laborum?
At vero dulce est, credo, per aperta serena
Securos errare, et lucida lumina solis
Aspicere, atque haurire recenteis ætheris auras.
Mancupium! quasi demum in vita non sit agendum,
Tute tui ut potiare, et ad omnem sis habilis rem.
  Ergo magna tibi mundi natura tuenda est;
Qua porrecta superficies pulcherrima terræ,
Rhipæas arces extra, atque Atlanta nivalem
Panditur, objicibusque imposta patentibus alte
Vera viget facies rerum, et sincera venustas.
Sanctæ illic habitant naturæ, et morte carentes
Dæmones, Heroesque, et Divom æterna propago;
Purpureumque solum super, et radiantia læta
Luce pavimenta, aspiciunt quam fulgida claro
Astra polo circumvolvi; rapidumque coruscos
Flectere equos Solem magni super æquora mundi.
At liquidum cœli laquear circum ambit, et inter-
funditur aurea lux, et lacteus irrigat æther;

Pura dies, placidusque sereno sidere vesper.
Ac veluti melicæ voces simul auribu' sese
Insinuant, animique resignant mollia claustra,
Composuere metus omneis, faciuntque dolorum
Obliviscier, et dulci languescere letho;
Haud secus est illorum oculis natura, ubi puros
Ebiberint radiorum apices, et picta colorum
Lumina, quippe intus tremula dulcedine tactos
Sollicitat sensus fluidus calor, inque plicata
Retia nervorum permanat viva voluptas.

Quin cursu maria auraï circumflua cingunt
Assiduo, non illa furentibus horrida ventis,
Sed levibus Zephyris tremefacta, et flamine puro
Subtiles animas, et mollia frigora fundunt
Nubibus intemerata vagis atque imbribus atris.

Quorum utique in fundo, cæcum genus, usque remota
Æquora, littoribus resonantia Geryonaï,
Porrigimus lata imperia, et dominamur ad altam
Caucason, et freta Caspiaco stridentia Cauro;
Immemores esse e membris migrandum in opacas

Functarum sedes animarum, interque meandum
Lurida littora, quæ ancipiti pallentia luce
Prænatat atra palus Acheron—
  Quippe sub immensis Terræ penetralibus altæ
Hiscunt in vastum tenebræ: magnarum ibi princeps
Labitur undarum Oceanus—quo patre liquoris
Omnigeni latices, et mollis lentor aquaï
Profluxere, nova nantes æstate superne
Aërii rores nebularum, et liquidus imber.
Fama est, perpetuos illinc se erumpere fontes,
Florigerum Ladona, et lubrica vitra Selemni,
Crathidaque, imbriferamque Lycæis vallibus Hagno,
Et gelidam Panopin, et Pirenen lacrymosam:
Illinc et rapidos amnes fluere, et mare magnum.
  Fervidus hinc contra Phlegethon torrente corusco
Circum agitur, vastæ permanans regna ruinæ
Pallida, senta situ, pendentibus aspera saxis.
Haud aliunde levis per laxa foramina terræ
Permanat calor, et fissis penetrabile venis
Insinuat sese flammæ subtilis acumen.

Inde quati montes, elementaque belligerare
Carceribus inclusa suis, inde ardua cerni
Prodigia, et trepidis olim miracula nautis
Fumantes Hieræ scopuli, Liparæaque rupes
Sulphuream exspirans pallenti vertice lucem.
Tertia mœrentes tristi torpedine fluctus
Styx agit, et glaucas intersecat horrida ripas
Flebilibus lacrymarum undis, atque amne severo.
At medio misti in spatio vacuum omne tumultu
Complent, atque intus penetralibus interruptis
Vehementi ventorum ictu, sursum atque deorsum
Exagitata furit fracti discordia mundi.
Quo simul ac flentes, vitaï vere relicto,
Devenere animæ, sceleris quod quoique luendum
Longa dies exurit, et illætabile tempus.
Jam vero miserum est lacerari ululantibu' ventis
Et circumferri valida vertigine raptum;
Frigoribus stringi æternis, aut igne liquari
Assiduo—quoniam tenera est natura animaï,
Nec composta velut corpus carne, ossibu', nervis;
Quam tamen ista pati fatum est, terrestria donec

Exuerit tolerando, aut exoraverit ultro
Insontes umbras, quæcunque Acherusia claustra
Obscurosque lacus tenui stridore frequentant.
Hic quos funus acerbum, et raptæ injuria lucis
Detulit ante diem in tenebras, dum florida vita
Ver ageret, flueretque tepenti sanguine vena,
Circum errant mœsti, algentes; lacer Amphiaraus,
Hectorei manes, et Belidæ Palamedis
Luce carens caput, et Meleagri tristis imago.
Illum Œneus genitor supremo rore lavabat
Liquido in Eveno, juxta resonantia saxis
Fluviorum spatia, et mollis læta arva Metapæ;
At Parthaoniæ Calydonides, inter opacam
Olenon, et viridem Pleurona sonantibus umbris,
Errabant, nec jam dulces ingressæ Hymenæos,
Prima puellarum—fraternaque funera circum
Languentem abjecere gravi mœrore juventam.
Sancte senex! quem naturæ species, animique
Impulit ignea vis, portas ut frangere possis
Finibus impositas rerum, mundique capaces,
Pande mihi horrentem viridi caligine sylvarum

Ilissum, atque Academiæ sublustria claustra,
Cujus ego in lucis, magno perculsus amore,
Mente vager : juvat alta effingere somnia rerum,
Et veris majora sequi, currusque Deorum
Scandere pennigeros, dum primum Helicona serenum
Advehor, et sacri libamina palleo fontis :
Derivata tuo quoniam de corde sagaci
Dulcis et alta quies animi, pectusque periclis
Purgatum humanis, et fortuna altius omni.

THE SYSTEM IS FROM PLATO.

My Dear Father and Mother,

I take the earliest opportunity of sending you a translation of the Tripos. How it has succeeded I cannot yet tell : give me your real opinion how it ought. Love to Maria, and believe me, Yours most affectionately, R. S. I have sent it to Sidney and Courtney. Make allowance for loose version and mean language, for I write off-hand.

Alas! how sweet it is on the first entry of life to sport in the new light and indulge the young and active spirit, before fell care has frightened quiet from the mind, or anguish overspread it with darkness. Would to God that any charms of verse would rid us of *these* furies! so fierce a crew of passions cling on our hearts, and shake the perturbed

soul, anxious, unwearied—yet cannot wrest from us the unsated avarice of life. O wretch! art thou then so smitten with the love of ill, that thou canst dream over thy complaints, and grieve to be delivered from them? Dost thou groan, and yet hang fondly over thy disease? And wilt thou not seek by what art to calm and regulate this heart of thine, so agitated and overworn with terror, and what philosophy will teach thee to expect in tranquillity the rest from all thy griefs and toils? But what! it is pleasant, I suppose, to wander through a cloudless sky, to behold the cheering light of the sun, and to drink the fresh breath of the air. Contemptible slave! as if after all it were not thy business in life to possess thyself and be prepared for all possible events.

Look then on the great and glorious nature of the world, where the beautiful surface of the real earth expands itself far beyond the Riphæan hills and the snowy head of Atlas—where, towering upon the wide extended barriers of the globe, the real and untainted face of nature smiles. There sacred and immortal spirits dwell, angels and heroes, and the imperishable race of the gods, on those glowing plains—that soil, glittering with joyous light, they behold the stars in their real brightness rolled along the transparent heaven, and the refulgent Sun wheeling his blazing chariot above the surface of the world. Around them clips the fretwork of the liquid sky streaming with golden light, and a soft and tepid æther overflows them. Their days are cloudless, and their evenings mild with a calm and serene temperature. And, as when soft sounds have stolen themselves upon the ear, and broken through the yielding barriers of the soul, they hush every fear of the heart, make it forget its griefs, and steep it in oblivious ecstacy—even so is the nature of their eyes, when they drink the pure culmina of the rays and the painted light of colours: for the liquid heat plays on the internal sense with tremulous delight, and a living stream of pleasure flows through the tangled net-work of the nerves. But (i. e. to proceed) around them a sea of air flows in one eternal course, not torn by raging storms, but trembling under gen-

tle breezes, and shedding its cool and subtle breath inviolate by wandering clouds or blackening rains. In whose bottom, we, wretched mortals, extend our *boundless* empires to the distant ocean roaring on the rocks of Geryon, and those straits that howl beneath the Caspian north—unmindful that we must migrate from these limbs of ours, and wander on that joyless strand, pale and viewless with dark twilight, where mournful Acheron flows. For beneath the vast abysses of the earth deep darkness yawns. There the father of mighty waters, old Ocean, flows, from whose vast stream outspring all the varieties of elementary moisture, the aerial vapours of the dew, and the liquid showers that float in the vernal air. From hence the running fountains burst; flower-crowned Ladon, and the glassy stream of Selemnus, and Crathis, and the showery Hagno, pride of the Lycean valleys, and cool Panopis, and weeping Peirene: from hence, too, the rapid rivers flow and the great sea itself. Opposite to him rushes the burning torrent of fiery Phlegethon through the desert kingdom of boundless ruins, pale, dank, and rough with hanging rocks. From no other source does that volatile heat pierce through the fires of the earth, and the subtle point of flame insinuate itself into subterraneous veins. Hence mountains are convulsed, and the elements, shut in their dungeons, wage horrid war: hence do we see those prodigies in the sky, those portentous terrors of trembling sailors, the smoking rocks of Hiera, and the Liparæan cliffs breathing from their pale tops sulphureous light. The dark torpid stream of Styx succeeds and slowly winds his frowning flood and weeping waters of woe. These meeting in midway shake the intervening vacuum with horrid uproar; above, below, driven by fierce and violent storms, the discordant fragments of the world are dashed together. Thither, when the weeping souls who have left the spring of life are come, the crimes of each must be worked out by long and melancholy durance. Think then how wretched it is to be torn by howling blasts, and wrapt in circling whirlwinds; to be contracted by eternal cold, or liquefied in never-

ceasing fire : for the nature of the soul is tender, and not composed as the body is, of flesh, and bones, and nerves. Yet all this must it suffer, till by suffering it has worn away its terrestrial nature, or obtained mercy from those innocent shades which flit around the darkling streams of Acheron with an indistinct and slender scream. Here those, whom an untimely fate and an injurious deprivation of life sent before their day to the tomb, wander naked and melancholy; the mangled Amphiaraus, the ghost of Hector, and the viewless head of Palamede, and Meleager's mournful shade. Him his father Œneus washed with the last funeral libation in clear Evenus, fast by the river-stream sounding with rocks and soft Metapas' fruitful fields ; but the Calydonian virgins, the daughters of Parthaon, wandered among the groves of Olenus and Pleuron, green with sounding shades ; nor knew the bridal bed, fairest of damsels, but round their brother's tomb pined sorrowing, and cast away the flower of their youth in grief.

Holy and venerable sage (Socrates), whom the light of nature and the fiery force of thy mind drove on to burst the barriers that close in this world—throw open to me Ilissus trembling with the green darkness of woods and the twilight walks of Academe, in whose groves I may wander in imagination, smit with the sacred love of philosophy. I delight to body out magnificent dreams of things, to follow what is greater than truth, and mount the winged chariots of the gods, while now first I approach to cloudless Helicon and tremble to taste the sacred stream of the Muses. For from thy quick and penetrating mind is derived that deep and sweet sleep of the soul, that habit of heart purged from all passions and higher than all human fortune.

NEWTONI SYSTEMA MUNDANUM.

Cantabrigiæ a. d. 1792.

QUIS mihi vasta procul mundi convexa resolvens,
Eripiat terrarum umbris, ultraque reponat,
Æthere in altisono, juxta Jovis aurea templa,
Aurea templa super rapida radiantia luce;
Qua Divom fragor ille tonanti lapsus Olympo
Volvitur, atque cavi plangit plaga percita cœli?
Aut media ubi nocte quietæ lampades ardent
Astrorum, et Lunæ gelidum manat jubar, unde
Despiciam superincumbens mortalia secla
Et lacrymas, humilesque metus, curasque jacentes?
Nam neque me tenues augusti carminis ausus
Sidereos orbes inter, rerumque laborem
Ire jubent, tua, Sancte parens, inventa secutum,
Et bibere ingenuos miranti pectore fontes;

Quamvis nulla prius vatum vestigia, casto
Fixa solo, virides tulerint ad limina laurus;
Largifluo quoniam Musaï capta lepore
Mens secura monet, festinaque defluere ævi
Prima quies, teneræque brevis lascivia vitæ.

Principio Terræ, atque Ignis Deus, Oceanique
Semina discrevit: vacuum atque informe silebat
Ante Chaos, jacuitque soporo pondere bruta
Materies, late quam circumsedit opaca
Majestas tenebrarum, atque alti vesperis horror.
Tum vero, simul atque novi primordia pulsus
Cepit iners, habitura modum quemcunque aliunde
Exterus intulerat rerum tenor, ibat in altum
Impetis æterni patiens, neque ibi mora tardat
Terrena, aurarumve hebetat vapor, infinitum
Porrigitur, vacuusque patet sine limite mundus.

Naturæ sed enim tractus amor ille per omnes
Rara rudimenta, et teneros infunditur ortus,
Agglomerare sibi constrictum corpore corpus,
Miscerique et abire in idem; ni irrupta resistat

Durities, solidusque minuto in pulvere finis.
Inde tenax tamen Orbis, et inde elementa cohærent
Quæque locis, rigidi montes, robustaque saxa
Continuant sese, et longi jacet area campi:
Tenuis item tremuli sinus aëris, atque animarum
Fusilis erigitur sublimi limite candor;
Inde serenanti pelago, sub luce quieta
Lubrica panditur unda super fluitantibus undis;
Inde etiam rapidi vacuum per inane planetæ
Certum iter ingeminant versi, tuque, ardua Tellus,
Laberis, et vinclo media interflecteris aureo:
Cærula nec vero flammaï concava supra
Per vastum volgata trementia sidera claudunt,
Nec maris ætherii liquido lavat agmine vortex.
Quippe ea, quæ levibus fuerat prius addita rerum
Insinuataque particulis, ignava facultas
Pergere quo semel impulsu cœpere moveri,
Obstinat, una super desideria, unus ab alto
Tardat amor paris, et coëundi blanda cupido.
  Sol itaque assidua æstatem vortigine volvit,

Fervida per medium radiant ubi sidera mundum,
Candidus, et campos irrorat luce patentes.
Sex autem circum astra profundi fulgida cœli
Corripiunt spatia: Ille gravi contraria deorsum
Imperio vocat, ut quantum indignantia vinci
Rectum iter integrent, tantum subtilia tardent
Vincula; ita oppositæ dubio libramine vires
Inter utramque viam lævi declivia flexu
Sollicitant tenus, et facili sinuamine fallunt.
Tum vero, quo cuique magis curvatus eundo
Vertitur interior devexo tramite gyrus,
Et præceps rota vergit, eo magis impetis auctu
Præteriit, vacuumque fuga eluctatur in æquor.
Lentus ibi ascensu labor, et cunctantior actus
Objicitur, donec jam largior orbita vastum
Rettulerit errorem, et rerum causa recurrens
Inclinata suo spatia instauraverit arcu.
  Perpetuos igitur genitrix Natura reflexus
Viva novat, liquidumque jubar de fonte perenni
Ebibit, unde dies et mollis in æthere fervor;

Unde colorum habiles tacito discrimine lapsus,
Et septemgemino rumpuntur suavia tortu
Lumina, prout radii tenuis textura cadendo
Frangitur, aut media fluor interrumpitur umbra.
  Ultimus Ille coronati vaga cingula cœli
Ostendit, tardusque immensa volumina versat
Nocte super gelida, cui quondam Arnonis Eoï
Propter inumbratum laceris sub rupibus amnem,
Sulphureos ignes circum horribili ululatu
Lurida pallentes duxerunt orgia Mystæ.
  Acre dehinc jubar, et magni via vertitur axis:
Illum adeo in terris veteri formidine regem
Extulerant, aris Divom sacrisque repertis,
Pensilis ære cavo clangor, responsaque vatum
Thessalica, et tristi querceta sonantia vento.
  Infra autem, cursusque premens confinia nostri,
Ismarium rapido aperitur vertice numen.
  At Venus, ante alios cœli sublimior ignes,
Vidit odoratum Libani nemus, et freta cantu
Longa queri; luctus Tyriarum et mollia matrum

Munera, rorantesque rosas, mœstamque anemonen
Spargere purpureo violatum volnere fontem.
  Dein propiore rota rutilantia limina radit
Cyllene in gelida dictus sacer.—
  Interea spatia ipsa perenni percita pulsu
Visa simul fluere, et cœli positura malignam
Serpere tarda viam, quamvis intactilis, una,
Continuata, capax rerum, regione profunda:
Usque adeo sub Sole reflexis orbibus annus
Serior erigitur rediens, apicesque volutos
Et prolapsa sui sequitur fastigia cursus.
Namque ubi se obliquo scindunt effusa meatu
Æquora, et alterni gravior vicinia motus
Allicit, astra suos usque acclinantia flexus
Aut prolixa volant, aut delibrata feruntur
In latus.—Inde pati senium vaga fabrica mundi,
Inque dies ire in casus, atque impete fati
Assiduo labefactari primordia rerum.
Scilicet et tempus veniat, quo maxima moles
Funditus interrupta ruat, gelidique dehiscant

Horrendum inter se confuso fœdere fines.
Tu quoque, tu in medio pallere videberis orbe,
Sol, opifex flammarum, et acutæ lucis origo,
Attonitisque procul quatere ægra crepuscula terris.
  Est igitur Deus—Ille Anima intellecta per Omne
Implet agens magni mortalia mœnia mundi.
Ille super fontes tenebrarum, immania regna,
Quo neque fervida mens hominum pervenit, et alte
Infinita quies vita vacat, incubat æternum,
Extremamque tegit puro sub numine noctem.

MELIUS CIVITATI CONSULIT QUI TERMINAT, QUAM QUI FINES IMPERII PROPAGAT.

NEQUAQUAM difficile est, in iis quæ ad rempublicam spectant probandis, florentissima quæque veterum civitatum tempora eligere ; ac ubi ipsi sententiæ ultro blandiri atque assentire videtur hominum imbecilla ambitio, quasi vim inferre auditoribus, gloriosa maximarum urbium memoria. Cum vero Politici est non solum crescentis reipublicæ saluti providere, sed eidem stabilitæ etiam timere; cum et hoc ipsum experti sumus, nullum tam diuturnum esse imperium quin (ex quibuscunque causis) effringi atque erui possit; cum pleraque eorum, quo latius se dilatarint, eo graviore exitio divulsa, urbesque terrarum dominas ex ipsis tantum cadaveribus fuisse recognoscimus: Hæc omnia argumento esse debent, Sapi-

entiam in ipsis victoriis modum aliquem præcipere, qui evagantem gloriæ licentiam corrigat aliquantulum et cohibeat.

Si eventus ex causis suis articulatim deducentes, civitatis cujusque initia, progressus, et occasum prosequeremur, occurreret illico simplex et in omnes diffusa ratio; paupertatem victoriæ, victoriam luxuriæ, luxuriam mollitiæ causam extitisse. Unde autem hæc series oriatur; quibus legibus adeo post hominum memoriam progressa sit, ut pæne in fatis esse videatur; simplici, ut spero, si ex ipsa re judicari possit, ratione explicabitur.

Primum igitur videre est, unumquodque imperium studio potius propagandi fines suos fuisse provectum, quam terminandi prudentia retentum: itaque diversissimas gentes, variis moribus, consuetudine aliena, rerum adversarum sodalitio conjunctas, communi provinciarum nomine uni capiti subdidisse. Hinc, ut felicitate magis quam miseriis fatiscunt hominum ingenia, vel ex victarum urbium colluvie, vel ex ipsa securitate, obrepsit victoribus supina quædam atque insolens ignavia; provinciæ op-

pressæ; magistratuum impunita iniquitas; militibus concessa vis ac rapina; Libertas violata; civium denique omni injuriarum genere cumulata servitus. Hæc qua vi animos hominum impellant, quo dolore evocent, attollant, incendant, sentiri melius quam dici potest. Et tum maxime, cum novis rebus favere videtur temporum et locorum opportunitas, cum in ancipiti respublica, cum propter ipsam longinquitatem omnia belli subsidia tardissime perferuntur, et in tantum spatium ab ipso capite nisi cum periculo distrahi nequeunt. Ut enim Libertatis jus non zonarum limitibus circumscribitur, non morum diversitate distinguitur, sed commune quoddam humani generis patrimonium est; ita desiderium ejus tam barbarorum ferociæ, quam cultæ urbanorum virtuti infusum atque infixum videtur: neque ulla mehercule violentia, nedum imperii nomine adeo penitus exstingui potest, quin identidem collecta suscitetur, et renovato spiritu effervescat. Testor cruentas atque luctuosas Marii, Julii, Germanici victorias! Testor majorum nostrorum virtutem, quam in ipsis tot tantarumque cladium vestigiis reluctan-

tem, mirabantur hostes Romani; veluti Camilli, Fabricii, Reguli sui in hac barbarie renascerentur!

Videte, quæso, quid Augustus apud Julianum loquatur; "Ego," inquit, "cum et antehac rempublicam pro-"vinciarum dissentionibus in discrimen adductam sen-"serim, ita vires ejus disposui, ut quoad in me fuit, pos-"teris adamantinam relinquerem. Non enim imperandi "cupiditate provectus, ut totum terrarum orbem Res "Romana amplecteretur, enixus sum; sed ut parta po-"tius tueretur, quam plura acquireret: eoque duplices "imperii terminos quasi a natura designatos Istrum atque "Euphratem constitui." Novit nimirum sapiens ille imperator, quod veluti in corporibus nostris habilis quædam ac bene connexa membrorum concinnitas vastam ac barbaram immanitatem viribus antecellit; ita imperii vis non in multitudine tantum, quantum in situ provinciarum consistit, et bene ordinata civitate, et custoditis finium munimentis; quibus veluti communibus adminiculis innitatur reipublicæ securitas.

Desistamus vero ex hominum affectibus judicium fa-

cere (est enim in re politica nimis fortasse philosophari), et in ipsas historias transeamus, ut videri possit, an Augustum veterum exempla revolventem, an etiam rebus Romanis prospicientem fefellerit hæc opinio.

Assyriæ imperium, sub Semirami hinc usque ad Indum, illinc ad Ægypti fines provectum, sub Sardanapalo rege, Medis cum Arbace præfecto eorum desciscentibus, dissolutum est. Sub rege fateor perditissimo; neque quisquam dubitet quin ea tempora novis rebus optime inserviant. At videte quam mihi suffragentur ipsæ res! Imperator in Gynæceo! Urbs totius Asiæ princeps, præfectorum fidei male commissa! distractæ imperii vires, aut in longinquis provinciis absumptæ! projecta denique civitas velut vasta quædam atque incondita moles, cujus enervis lassitudo nimio corporis oneri succumbebat! Audita Medorum defectione, secuta est tota Oriens; divisoque in tres partes imperio, ducentis post annis, Asiam ab Hyrcano usque ad Arabicum mare, Tyronque insuper, atque ipsam Ægyptum complexa est Babylon: iterumque Mediæ insidiata ab ipso hoste exscinditur. Iisdem

in armis Crœsus Lydorum rex, imperii nimis appetens regnum cum libertate amisit; nimirum et ipse documentum, et quam non explenda sit ambitio, et quantum in agendo insit aliquoties reipublicæ periculum. De Medis nihil loquor; transferri enim potius quam everti videtur eorum imperium. In Græciam et notiora festinemus exempla, cujus annalibus quoniam intertexta videtur Persarum historia, ambos uno aspectu complecti possumus. Persarum effusum sane dominium Cyri paterna quadam prudentia usque ad Darium viguit. Dein defectionem suadente barbarorum insolentia, descivere Ioniæ civitates; iisque per proditionem redactis, in Græciam simulata offensione, versa regis ambitio. Apud Marathona, apud Salamina, et Platæas inculcata Asiæ dominis hujus sententiæ veritas! Adeoque ipsi postea, bello reciprocante, periclitati sunt, ut auro potius in curia, quam in acie ferro regiam suam conservasse videantur!

Videte quam non diuturni imperii fundamenta locaverit Alexander! Temerarius, juvenis, vincendi quam retinendi avidior, et quia hodie felix fortunam sibi æternam polli-

citus, totam Orientem incendii ritu corripuit. At in ipso cursu crapula oppressus, tot tantasque gentes incertis dissipandas legavit hæredibus. Quid Spartiatis, quid Atheniensibus tantum obfuit, quantum adoptivæ civitates, et coloniarum suscepta patrocinia? quibus in periculum adductis, velut æquo longius brachium porrigere et majora viribus foris efficere aggressi, res suas domi enervarunt. Quid aliud, ut cum Augusto loquar, respublica Romana per tot annos provinciarum defectionibus exercitata, nisi hoc ipsum declarat. Quid aliud ex Cannensi internecione, et Numantini fœderis ignominia usque ad deletum imperium, testantur excisæ legiones, nisi quod tueri dominatum quam propagare difficilius est.

Quæ est ergo perfecta et absoluta civitas? Ea profecto quæ in se tota, non extrinsecus pendet, neque aliunde suspensas prosperitatis suæ rationes trahit; quæ conciliare æmulas gentes, tumentesque populos non militum auctoritate magis, quam vitæ ac morum commercio connectere, quæ provinciarum postulatis non vacare solum sed intercedendo magistratuum iniquitati anteire etiam

valet; quæ omnia æquabili imperio temperare pro muro æstimat; cujus velut Solis in omnes mundi partes circumfusa benignitas, omnia invadit, lustrat, fovet. Cujus ea est magnitudo, ut finibus suis sine suo ipsius periculo subveniat; ea vis, ut alienis neque invidiæ neque contemptui sit; ea lenitas et justitia, ut etiamsi periclitetur respublica, magistratuum ambitioni populi adversetur fidelitas.

HE CONSULTS MORE FOR THE INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY WHO BOUNDS HER EMPIRE THAN WHO EXTENDS IT.

It is easy in establishing a political maxim, to select the most flourishing periods of the ancient empires; and where the weak ambition of man is naturally soothed and flattered by the sentiment itself; to force conviction on an audience, by the glorious memory of those stupendous fabrics of government which have formerly been as convictive a proof of the grandeur of the human mind, as their remains now are of its incapacity. But as it is the interest of a Politician not only to provide for the well being of a growing republic, but to extend his views to the preservation of its safety when established; as we have experienced this mortifying truth that no empire is so durable as not (from whatever causes) to be subject to dissolution; as we know that most of them have been convulsed with a violence proportionable to their magnitude; and trace in their ashes alone the existence of cities once the lords of the world: these connected circumstances argue, that wisdom dictates a

golden mean in the mid career of victory, which may check and moderate in some measure the unbridled licentiousness of ambition.

Were I to follow the rise, progress, and fall of the respective monarchies, deducing events distinctly from their causes, a natural and universally applicable idea would immediately present itself; that poverty had been the incentive to conquest, conquest to luxury, and luxury to effeminacy, from whence this series originates. By what law it has so uninterruptedly obtained through all records of history, as to seem almost a necessary consequence, I hope, if a judgement may be formed from facts, to explain by an idea equally natural.

First then it is evident that every empire has been more forcibly impelled by a zeal for increasing its dimensions, than restrained by the prudential policy of setting bounds to its conquests. Hence, as the mind of man more naturally sinks under prosperity than adversity, whether from the contagion of the vanquished, or their own supposed security, a supine and insolent negligence has universally crept upon the manners of the conquerors. Their provinces are oppressed; the iniquity of the magistrates connived at; the violence and rapacity of the soldiers encouraged: in short, while the remembrance of freedom yet glows in the hearts of the conquered, their slavery is embittered by every species of insult. How forcibly these things impel the minds of men, with what resentment they excite, exalt, and inflame them, it is easier to feel than describe! and never so much so as when the opportunity of time and place seem of themselves to favour a revolution; when the fountain head of government is exhausted; when the distance itself retards and embarrasses the conveyance of all military stores, and renders it dangerous to detach them so far from the capital. For, as the right of Liberty is not circumscribed by climate, or determined by the state of civil society, but is the unalienable hereditary claim of all mankind, so is regret for its loss infused and rivetted as well into the ferocity of the barbarian, as the polished virtue of the philosopher.

Nor is it possible by any violence, much less by the ineffective terror of a nominal command, so entirely to extinguish it, but that it will sometimes be roused to action, and blaze forth with redoubled ardour. Witness the bloody and dear bought victories of Marius, Julius, Germanicus! Witness the courage of our ancestors, whose struggles for freedom in the very vestiges of so many and so great defeats the Roman, though an enemy, admired and honoured! and saw with reverence the soul of a Camillus, Fabricius, and Regulus reviving in the patriotism of these barbarians!

Observe, Gentlemen, the words of Augustus on this subject in Julian: "Sensible," says he, "of the dangers which the commonwealth has been "frequently exposed to by the revolts of its provinces, I so disposed its "strength that, as far as in me lay, I might secure it to posterity on a "foundation of adamant; for it was not from an immoderate lust of "power, ambitious that the Roman empire should comprehend the "whole habitable globe, but rather employ its strength in supporting "its present greatness, than aiming at useless and burthensome acqui- "sitions; and with this view I fixed on the Danube and the Euphrates "as the boundaries which nature seemed to have marked out as the "boundaries of its dominion." The wise emperor well knew that, as in the natural body a well compacted neatness of shape is more adapted to the purposes of strength and activity than a bulky and unwieldy largeness; so the strength of the body politic consists not so much in the extent as the situation of its provinces, and the regulation of its internal government, and the security of its frontiers, on which the safety of the whole may lean as on a common prop.

But let us quit this method of arguing from the passions or opinions of men, (for it is handling a political point rather perhaps too philosophically,) and examine the proposition by the test of history, that we may judge whether Augustus, as deciding on the present from the examples of the past, was deceived in this opinion.

The Assyrian empire extended by Semiramis on one side to the

Indus, on the other to the borders of Egypt, was overthrown in the reign of Sardanapalus, by the revolt of the Medes under Arbaces their governor, under a king I confess of the most abandoned profligacy; nor will any one deny that such times are peculiarly ripe for a revolution. But observe how matter of fact declares for me—an emperor immured in his Seraglio—a city, the metropolis of all Asia, injudiciously entrusted to the fidelity of a viceroy—the force of the state divided and swallowed up in remote provinces; in short, the whole empire stretched out like a listless and misshapen bulk, whose enervate lassitude was unequal to its own support. The whole East followed the revolt of the Medes; and the dominion being divided into three parts, two centuries afterwards Babylon again comprized all Asia from the Caspian Sea to the Gulf of Arabia, together with Tyre and Ægypt itself—and in an expedition against the Medes was again taken and stripped of her sovereignty. In the same war Crœsus, king of Lydia, too covetous of empire, lost liberty with his kingdom himself: a sad example how insatiable is ambition, and how dangerous to a state is the unbridled indulgence of a love for enterprize! Of the Medes I say nothing, as their empire seems rather to have been transferred than overthrown. Let us hasten into Greece, and instances more generally known, with whose annals as the Persian history seems interwoven, we may take in both at one view. The enormous dominions of the Persians, by the paternal wisdom of Cyrus, continued in a flourishing condition till the time of Darius, when the states of Ionia were stimulated to a revolt by the insolence of the barbarians. Having reduced them by treachery, the monarch on a pretended offence turned his ambitious views towards Greece. At Marathon and Salamis, on the bloody plains of Platæa, the lords of Asia learnt this fatal truth! and were themselves afterwards so nearly overwhelmed by the returning tide of war, that their gold in the Grecian Senates scarcely rescued that diadem which their swords in the field of battle were unable to defend.

On how brittle a foundation did Alexander build his power! rash, young, and inexperienced, more greedy of conquest than possession, and allured by his present fortune to the flattering hope of never failing prosperity, he rushed like a torrent over all Asia, and, stifled in his mid career by drunkenness, left his extensive empire to be divided and dissipated by uncertain successors. What debilitated Sparta? what ruined Athens? but the adoption of foreign nations, and the patronage of distant colonies; for the relief of whose dangers and necessities, attempting abroad to extend their arms too far, and undertake enterprizes beyond their strength, they unnerved their domestic government.

What else (to repeat the sentiment of Augustus) does the Roman republic, so many years harassed by the disturbances of its provinces, but declare this truism? What else from the massacre of Cannæ, and the ignominy of the Numantine truce, to the utter dissolution of the empire, does the blood of the slaughtered legions confirm, but that to defend is more difficult than to conquer?

What then is a complete and perfect empire? That, and that only which has neither external dependencies, nor draws the sources of its prosperity from foreign assistance; which can reconcile the claims of rival nations, and attach rebellious provinces not more by military force than the daily intercourse of life and manners; which can not only give an ear to the complaints of the subject, but prevent them by striking at their root in the oppression of the magistrate; whose strong wall of defence is to moderate every thing by equal law; whose benign influence equally diffused like the Sun's, penetrates, examines, and nourishes all its constituent parts; whose dimensions are so proportioned that it can defend its frontiers without the diminution of its own internal strength; whose force is so balanced as to be neither suspected nor despised by foreign powers; and whose justice is so mild and distributive, that, though the government should be in danger, the attachment of the subject may counteract the ambition of the magistrate.

MARE LIBERUM.

CANTABRIGIÆ 1791.

PRIMO Creator Spiritus halitu
Caliginosi regna silentii
Turbavit, ingentesque aquarum
Luce nova tremefecit umbras;

Tum firma disjecto emicuit mari
Moles, et immotum exeruit caput
Atlas, et æternum nivalis
Caucasus. " Hæc tibi, Terra, sedes

" Hæc esto," dixit, " per fremitum æquoris
" Cœlique fulmen, per revolubiles
" Intacta seclorum meatus
" Perpetua stabilita lege.

" Disterminatum ut gentibus imperi
" Possit remotis figere limitem,
" Certoque Naturæ retentos
" Fine vagos cohibere nisus.

" Tu, cujus almo primitus in sinu
" Secreta rerum semina vividas
" Sumsere vires, et venustatem
" Aucta tuis biberint latebris;

" Vagare latos, Unda, per ambitus
" Terrarum, ad usque extrema furentibus
" Supposta Cauris, aut propinquo
" Littora fervidiora sole.

" Non tu arduis victoribus addita
" Regina crinem in pulvere cœrulum
" Pones, triumphalisque sævos
Imperii patiare fastus:

" Sed inquietis vorticibus, cavo
" Velata longe in gurgite proruas
" Spelæa, turritumque saxis
" Littus agas resonante nimbo."

Ergo insolentis quis furor imperi
Inauspicatos mollis Iberiæ
Excivit ausus in Britannum, et
Arma suis aliena fatis?

Quippe ut superba undantia purpura
Vexilla, lætis sola Aquilonibus
Monstraret, et nostris negatas
Puppibus ingrederetur undas;

Quod nec Choaspis potor, Olympiæ
Nec sæva proles, nec domina urbium
Late catenatis ad axem
Servitium imposuere terris.

Sed nec parentum colla, minacibus
Dignata deduci imperiis, jugum
Tulere, nec finxere nostræ
Indecores animos juventæ.

Erecta virtus tendit in arduos
Inermis hostes, et rapere occupat
Excussa sublato lacerto
Tela suæ fabricata cladi.

Jam decolorato agmine funebris
Iberus, atro in vortice saucios
Devectat artus, et suorum
Cæde gravi ruit amne Bœtis.

Cerno in remota rupe micantium
Discrimen armorum, et nece fervidam
Calpen, triumphantem gementes
Inter aquas; rapidumque belli

Fulmen secundo sub Jove concitum; et
Æquor coruscum lumine lugubri,
Planctumque, clamoremque late
Per trepidos equitare fluctus.

Quo fracta terrore abstinuit manum
Spes impotentis vana superbiæ,
Martisque sublimem Britanni
Horruit exagitata vocem.

Ergo alta victrix fas tibi liberos
Inire fluctus; fas maria hospitis
Sulcare proris, ultimasque
Ire domos utriusque Solis;

Ad usque lætas littoris aurei
Sedes, remotæ regna Peruviæ,
Et rura, qua ingentes Amazon
Rumpit aquas violentus amnis.

O Diva, sacrorum incola fontium,
Quæ flebili dulcedine temperas
  Cantus ad Usticam cubantem, et
    Præcipites Anienis undas;

Interdum et alti carminis arbitrum
Majore plectro sollicitas chelyn,
  Bellumque deposcis minaci et
    Arma virum socianda chordæ;

Non usitatam poscit adoream
Donanda longa laude Britannia:
  Non illa vulgari Camœna,
    Aut humili temeranda versu.

Tu Diis amicis pectoribus sacrum
Largire Phœbi flumen, et humidam
  Libethron, et Pindi sonantis
    Mæonia juga nigra lauru.

Me prona lympharum unda loquacium,
Lenisque Musæ spiritus Atticæ
  Componet aurita, relabentem
    In tenues numeros, sub umbra.

"BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON WE SAT DOWN AND WEPT."

PSALM CXXXVII.

Μυρομενοι / Κλαιομενοι Βαβυλωνος εφεζομεθ' αμφι ρεεθρα
Ληθη φορμιγγων, ται δε δνοφερων απο δενδρεων
Αφθογγοι κρεμασαντο, επει μαλα πατριδος αιης
Μνησαμεθα κλαιοντες· εφυβριζοντο δε κουροι
Δυσμενεων· ιερης αγετ' ω γαθοι αρχετ' αοιδης.
Πως υπο δȣλειας ιερων αρχωμεθ' αοιδων;
Πως δε Θεȣ μολπης γαιῃ ενι βαρβαροφωνῳ;
Ειποτ' εγω Σολυμη σεο λησομαι, ειποτε δ' αυτε
Σος ποθος αλγινοεσσαν επι φρενα μηκετ' επελθοι,
Ως τοτε χειρας εμας ληθη λαβοι, ω μεγα κρειον,
Μνησαιης Βαβυλωνος / δυσλητος υπερφιαλȣ βασιλισσης·
Ως ποτε σαις πτολεεσσιν επευχετο, ρηγνυτε κȣροι / παμπαν
Ρηγνυτε τειχεα καλα, ϗ ες χθονα βαλλετε πυργȣς.
Ω Θυγατερ Βαβυλωνος οδυρμασιν εντηκυια,
Ολβιος, ολβιος ȣτος, ος υβριος εινεκα ταυτης
Τισομενος, σεο παιδας επι πετρῃσιν ερειδοι.

LETTERS

WRITTEN FOR A FRIEND WHO HELD A TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP IN 1792, 1793.

ANGOULEMII CALEND. MAII.

Doctissime Procancellarie,

TOTOS jam sex menses Angoulemii inclusus tristissimum mihi meisque exilium patior. Itaque quam in Italia hyemandi animo conceperam aut adempta penitus aut in longum dilata spes. Quæ mihi res acerbior molestiorque est, quia ex quo Academiæ nostræ beneficio, hac quasi libera legatione usus sum, id semper mihi in primis propositum fuit, ut antiquam illam matrem inquirerem, et Musarum inhærerem vestigiis; tum vero occasionem hanc, nulla ne accusatione quidem nedum culpa mea mihi ereptam, constanter magis quam æquo animo

ferendum censeo. Verum enimvero concedendum id fortasse populo pro aris et focis dimicanti, ut summæ justitiæ detrahatur aliquod atque deficiat. Ego certe iis qui hoc mihi, gravissimo potius in alios exemplo quam in me injuria fecerunt, haud magnopere succenseo; etsi minus ut velim, tamen ut possum, ago. Id enim mihi ubicunque me fortuna collocarit faciendum esse in animum induxi, ut in patria mea civis, in aliena hospes optimus sim. Quod vero ad te scribam, vir doctissime, nihil plane habeo, cum et rarissima librorum supellectili, et exeundi licentia plane nulla utar. Hodie vero Americani cujusdam in Britanniam transeuntis beneficio scribendi occasionem raptim et quasi ex furto nactus, Academian nostram teque præsidem ejus præterire nolui. Itaque quod in difficillimo hoc reipublicæ tempore agatur ex aliis melius sciveris, quid vero ex iis quæ aguntur eventurum sit prævidere, neque juventutis est meæ, nec prudentiæ. Unicum id te oro, ut cum ex humanissimis Academiæ nostræ litteris, in miserrimo meo casu consolationis aliquod jam expertus sum, filium suum in externis agentem

ne obliviscatur facias; neque cum itineris beneficio privatus sum, viatico tamen carere me sinas. Sum, vir doctissime,

tui observantissimus

* *

Viro doctissimo
Gul. Colman
Academiæ Cantab. Procanc.

Angoulemii Kalend. Jun.

TANDEM aliquando, vir doctissime, laxiore paulo custodia habitus, propinquam in patriam redeundi spem concessi. Itaque tribus annis fere exactis, ex quo Academiæ beneficio e domicilio vestro profectus sum extremum hoc reverentiæ potius causa, quam ut fructus aliquos remittam peregrinationis meæ, me tibi commendo. Quodsi litteræ meæ jejuniores alicui videantur parumque ad eum finem qui mihi primus esse debuit accommodatæ, velim is me *κατ' αἴσαν ἐνίσσῃ οὐδ' ὕπερ αἴσαν*; meminentque me non idcirco legationem hanc vestram suscepisse, ut in inopia, in vinculis, miserrimum tristissimumque sustine-

rem exilium; neque aliud omnino nisi acerbam eorum quæ crudelia ac nefanda viderim, memoriam reportarem. Verum ego id omne post me relinquo; neque enim vereor, ne non et tuum, et bonorum omnium æquissimum in me sit judicium, animusque ad misericordiam quam ad reprehensionem propensior. Quæ vero sint Gallorum, qualesque, et quot, de summa rerum sententiæ, paucis admonitum te velim. Itaque sub crudelissimo isto decemvirorum imperio, extinguebatur omnis iste qui in hoc populo tantus est armorum impetus, neque ut plerumque oppressa civitate silentium id fuit, aut tacita eorum quæ fierent detestatio. Paucos, mehercle, eosque dictaturæ propiores continebat metus, cæteri omnes stupore ac deliquio animi consternebantur, ut ne indignationi quidem relinqueretur locus. Prostratæ leges—senatus profligata auctoritas—antiqua odio habebantur, novis nihil contemptius—urbes diuturna suppliciorum atrocitate perterritæ—colonis vim omnem, ac fortitudinem ademerat ipsa solitudo—præterea, militum transcursus—eorumque qui in provincias cum imperio mittebantur effrænata, ac

soluta legibus petulantia. Acuebantur ipsa scelerum consuetudine libido eorum atque avaritia; plurimos inter supplicia joculari carnificum sævitia irrisos fuisse constat. Postea vero quam desæviit atrocissima ista tempestas, resurgit jam, ut ita dicam, et quasi renascitur illa opinionum diversitas; itaque hodie Gallia omnis in tres partes dividitur, quorum altera mores ritusque majorum, altera imperium legitimum, nomen imperii regium desiderat, tertia vero "populi fasces, sævasque secures" unius dominationi anteponit; horum autem ipsorum alii rempublicam severam atque asperam, alii facilem atque elegantem volunt. Opitulantur iis qui antiqua repetenda censent, detestatio eorum quæ per quinque annorum spatium acta sunt, et in magna temporum miseria potentior religio; qui vero neque servitutem pati possunt, et licentiæ populari ludibrium debere nolunt; qui neque ab exteris tranquillitatem cum dedecore, neque a pessimo quoque civium victoriam turbulentam, ac periculosam accipere cupiunt; ii omnes regem quidem, sed devinctum legibus desiderant. Δημαγώγυς autem sustentat magna in pleris-

que vicissitudinum satietas, et ipsum id quod imperio potiuntur, tum inanis cujusque nihil aliud agere hostium exercitus, nihil aliud sperare nisi suum supplicium reputantis timor, ferocissimo cuique adversatur præteritorum memoria malorum, recensque scelerum detestatio. Itaque infra tres quæ secuturæ sunt menses versatur omne, ut mihi quidem videtur, hujus rei discrimen; urgemur enim inopia frugum, neque præ miseria jam ultra tranquilli esse possumus: leges quidem populo, et instituta prædicant, sed mehercle, parum auscultanti. "Acrior illum cura domat;" neque quos excitavit necessitas, illos loquentia facile continebis.

Ego vero, vir doctissime, quid mihimet ipsi ex his rebus eveniat, plane nescio: litteras vero hasce, haud profecto sine aliquo meo periculo, tibi transmittendas decrevi, ne Academiæ nostræ in mea qualicunque fortuna defuisse viderer.

Sum tui observantissimus

* *

LINES TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

A. D. 1840.

DULCIS avis! Graiæ lædit te Fabula Musæ;
Non tu hominum scelera aut fatum illætabile nosti
Humani generis; non est vox ista dolentis,
Nec spirat miseros orbatæ matris amores—
Sed læta et rapida et liquida variante loquela,
Fundens perpetuum vivo de pectore cantum
Evocat e somno sylvas, et florea rura.

TRANSLATION BY HIS GRANDSON.

Sweet Bird! ill-used in Græcian harmony!
Thou know'st not human fault nor fate's decree.
No tone of sorrow clogs thy cheerful breath
Of mother mourning o'er her infant's death;
But joyful, rapid, varied in its sound,
And pouring constant melody around,
It wakes from sleep the woods, and flow'ry ground.

TRANSLATION OF A GREEK EPIGRAM.

Αγρος Αχαιμενιδου γενομην ποτε, κ. τ. λ.

I WAS formerly the field of Achæmenides, but now of Menippus; and from him I shall go to another, and then again to another. My former master thought I was his, and so does my present, but I am in truth nobody's but fortune's.

I once belonged to Achæmenides,
A bumpkin base that had not ten ideas;
My present owner is Menippus:
So we brief occupants yclepe us!
Each in his turn a staunch believer,
In him and in his heirs for ever;
But as for ownership indeed,
The tallest man and lowest weed
Are owned alike by that great power,
Who turns at will the varying hour,
And deals to every thing created
The ups and downs to which 'tis fated.

LINES

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY LORD HOLLAND.*

IF we could but be easy and let Death alone,
His work would be quickly and quietly done;
Kind nature would waft us untroubled to rest,
And crown all her gifts with the last and the best.
But hope, that has fooled us through life, at its close
Still clings to our pillow and whispers, Who knows?
So we struggle and wince and make war against fate,
With Doctors and Draughts and the Devil knows what;
Till the poor fevered spirit, thus goaded to strive,
Counts each gasp as it passes, and dies all alive.

* *Rich.* II. SHAKESPEARE. What does Shakespeare mean by the last line? asked Lord Holland.

> I will despair, and be at enmity
> With cozening hope; he is a flatterer,
> A parasite, a keeper back of death,
> Who gently would dissolve the bands of life,
> Which false hope lingers in extremity.
>
> Act ii. scene 2.

IN MORTEM CONJUGIS, 1833.

MEI AD ME. R. S.

SOCIAM senectæ, caritate mutua
Junctam tot annos, mutua junctam fide,
Solatium causamque vivendi tibi,
Acerba, te superstite, abstulit Dies!
Tu, cum sit hominis flere, fac quod imperat
Natura, dein (quod vita te monet) vide
Ut universus, legis æternæ tenax,
Hic ordo rerum, obediens eat viam
Prædestinantis cuncta Providentiæ:
Queri, reniti, philosophari, Vanitas!
Venerare Fatum capite velato; tacens,
Summissus ultro sequere: nec longum est iter.
Quicquid creatum est sicut umbra præterit:
Cito præterieris ipse, perfer. Unica
Tranquillitas est velle quod voluit Deus.

ANOTHER VERSION.

QUOD unum amasti Fata præripiunt tibi:
Tu, cum sit Hominis flere, fac quod imperat
Natura, dein quid vita moneat respice.
sis memor.
Stultum dolere, calcitrare stultius;
Tranquillitas est velle quod voluit Deus.

FOR THE ENTRY TO A CEMETERY.

OH qui fessus adhuc vitæ maria aspera transis,
Ecce tibi optatam, tot tempestatibus acto,
Ecce sinum cujus statio tutissima coram
Panditur, et rabie ventorum intacta, recumbens.
Inde iter ad patriam lætumque ostendit eunti:
Tu lege vela libens, portuque potire reperto.

LINES

SUGGESTED BY SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S APOSTROPHE TO DEATH AT THE CLOSE OF HIS HISTORY.*

HIC Jacet—O humanarum meta ultima rerum !
Ultra quam labor et luctus curæque quiescunt,
Ultra quam penduntur opes et gloria flocci,
Et redit ad nihilum vana hæc et turbida Vita !
Ut te respicerent homines ! quæ bella per orbem,
Qui motus animorum, et quanta pericula nostra
Acciperent facilem sine cæde et sanguine finem.
Tu mihi versare ante oculos ! non tristis imago,
Sed monitrix ut me ipse regam, domus hæc mihi cum sit
Vestibulum tumuli et senii pænultima sedes.

* " O eloquent, just, and mighty Death ! whom none could advise, thou hast perswaded ; what none hath dared, thou hast done ; and whom all the world hath flattered, thou only hast cast out of the world and despised : thou hast drawn together all the farre stretched greatnesse, all the pride, crueltie, and ambition of man, and covered it all over with these two narrow words—Hic Jacet."

EPITAPH ON HIS DOG AT CHEAM.

HERE lies poor Nick, an honest creature
Of faithful, gentle, courteous nature,
A parlour pet unspoilt by favor,
A pattern of good-dog behaviour.
Without a wish, without a dream
Beyond his home and friends at Cheam,
Through life contentedly he trotted
Along the path which fate allotted,
Till time, his aged body wearing,
Bereaved him of his sight and hearing;
Then laid him down without a pain,
To sleep and never wake again.

Reader, does thy reflection tell
Thou hast lived as wisely and so well?

If not, go mend thee while thou may'st,
And take example from a beast;
For many a gentleman may pick
A lesson from the life of Nick.

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